

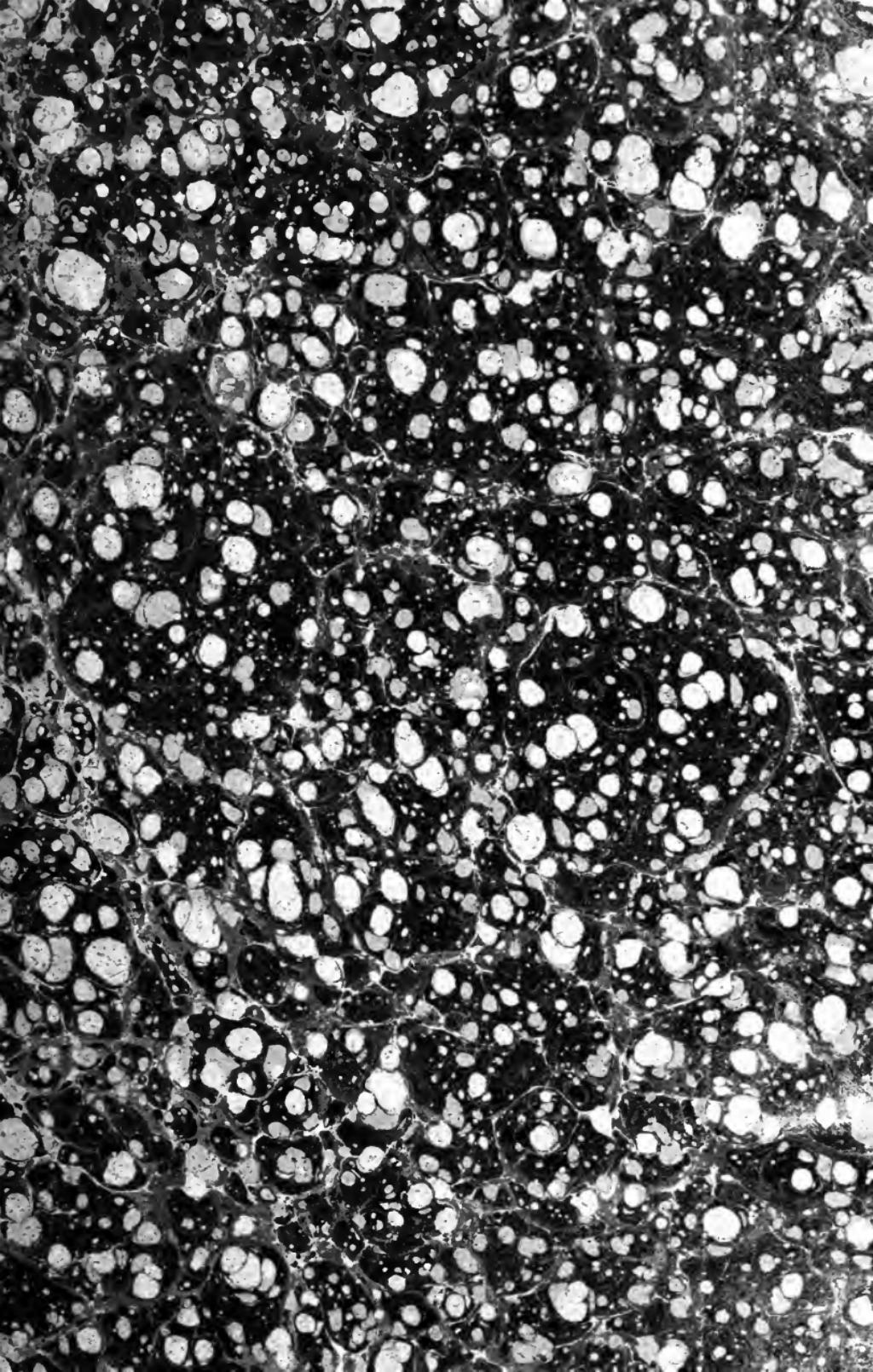
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OUR REVENUE SYSTEM AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SHALL THEY BE REFORMED?



PUBLISHED FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE ALLIANCE,
BY
ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH & COMPANY,
770 BROADWAY,
New York.



OUR REVENUE SYSTEM

AND

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

SHALL THEY BE REFORMED?

"THE FIELD IS THE WORLD."



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DECLARATORY.

The INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE ALLIANCE is organized

To Obtain Complete Freedom in Trade and Commerce by abandoning the Custom House System:

To Provide Revenue for the Government by means of Direct Taxation:

To Begin Civil Service Reform by abolishing the offices identified with the existing Revenue System.

THE ALLIANCE HOLDS, That Freedom in Trade and Commerce—that is freedom in exchanging the products of labor—is right in itself, and is as necessary to the prosperity and welfare of the Nation as freedom in production is to the Individual: That Labor is not free while Exchanges are not free.

IT HOLDS, That Direct Taxation is not only far more economical and far less corrupting than a Tariff System, but it is also less oppressive to the people, and more in harmony with the principles on which our Government is founded.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE Tariff System has long been an impediment to our National prosperity, and a most fruitful source of sectional strife. It has been perverted from the purpose for which it was adopted—to furnish revenue; and has become a most corrupt and formidable obstacle to the pursuit of useful and honorable enterprise.

The Custom House and Internal Revenue System is rapidly increasing and concentrating patronage and power under the control of the Federal Government. These are already gigantic in proportions, corrupt in character, and most dangerous to our liberties. To wield this patronage and this power is, more than all things besides, the stimulus for party supremacy, but it is the very element which no party can safely be trusted to control.

The Federal Constitution provides for Direct Taxation by apportionment of Government expenses among the several States according to population and representation. Taxes so apportioned may be collected through the agency of the respective States by whatever method they may severally prefer. In this way the services of thousands of federal office-holders will be dispensed with, thus effecting a complete reform in these departments and preparing the way for thorough purification in other departments of Government.

The Alliance favors this method of Direct Taxation—it being already provided for in the Constitution—

but not to the rejection of any other which will be equally effective in results.

Correspondence and coöperation are invited from every one who may become interested in the question. Permission to publish communications will be assumed when not marked *private*.

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COMMENDATORY.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON, *in 1868.*

NATIONAL selfishness is as much more to be deprecated than personal greed, as aggregated millions are of more consequence than the individual. Who shall rightfully interpose barriers to the unobstructed interchange of the results of human industry, invention and skill? Assuming that the interests of all nations are the interests of each, and each of all, I know not where the lines are to be drawn. If Japan and China are getting sufficiently enlightened to abandon their exclusiveness as against commercial interchange with the rest of mankind, surely the United States should take the lead in the adoption of a Free Trade policy, which, while founded upon world-wide considerations, cannot fail to be twice blessed—"blessing him who gives and him who takes," in the spirit of mutual reciprocity and good will.

HENRY WARD BEECHER, *in "The Christian Union."*

FREEDOM is the breath of all true prosperity. Freedom in politics makes strong states. Freedom in religion produces pure and intelligent churches. Freedom of trade makes a sound commerce. Freedom of labor—freedom of the individual to emigrate, to choose his own market, to make his own bargains, to augment his own wages by augmenting the value of his own labor—is indispensable to the permanent prosperity of the great community of working men.

Free trade is only one of the many forms of unrestricted human action which poets, philosophers and the common people worship under the name of liberty, and, like freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of religious observance, is an imprescriptible right of man; which guarantees his manhood and assures the numberless blessings of a high and beneficent civilization.

Free trade but expresses the world-old and universal practice of all rational beings when it asserts—which is all it asserts—that it is better for men to procure the commodities they need by exchange than by production, when the exchange is cheaper than the production. Go into our fields, our workshops, our mills, our stores, our shipping-houses, and every practical man there will tell you that he would be a fool who would waste ten hours' labor in producing for himself what he might get from another in exchange for six hours' labor. Every individual of our forty millions of people, in his relations with other individuals, acts upon this principle; every family in our ten millions of families, in its relation to other families, acts upon this principle; every township of our many thousand townships, in its relation to other townships, acts upon this principle; every state of our thirty-eight states and nine territories, in its relation to other states and territories, acts upon this principle; and yet the principle is pronounced a heresy, and the application of it to that larger agglomeration of men called the nation is resisted as if it were something new, unprecedented, dangerous and awful! What the individuals of every civilized country all do, what the families of every civilized society all do, what the towns and cities and states and provinces of every civilized society all do, nations may not do, as if nations were more mysterious and inscrutable entities, differing from every other aggregate of men.

COMMENDATORY.

From "A RUN THROUGH EUROPE," by E. C. BENEDICT.

THE robbers of the Rhine are dead, and their castles are in ruins, and we are sailing down between their graves. The robbers of the Rhine! How easy it is to call names! They only levied duties on the commerce that passed that way; their castles were custom-houses. There were thirty-two of them in the middle ages. They were collectors, and had their night inspectors, and tide waiters, and revenue cutters, which they wore at their sides in a scabbard; their duties were *ad-valorem*, or specific by a sliding scale, always sliding upward, or in any direction in which they would produce the most revenue; *theirs was strictly a revenue tariff*. THEY WERE ROBBERS; what are we who seize by the throat figuratively every merchant that brings us what we want, and will not let his goods pass till he has paid us a tribute of often one-third their value:

GERRIT SMITH, 1867.

WITH the high tariff men I am for promoting "American industry;" and with them I am for bringing the producer and consumer as near together as practicable. Nevertheless, I am an absolute free-trader. I would have no custom-house on the face of the earth. Never will government be administered honestly and frugally until the cost of administering it is paid by direct taxation. And never will government be confined within its proper limits until its sole office shall be to protect persons and property.

LETTER FROM REV. T. S. HASTINGS, D.D.

NEW YORK, *March 19. 1872.*

MR. A. L. EARLE.

My Dear Friend:—I have read your tract on “Free Trade” with care and with much interest. It has converted me. Educated a protectionist, politically and socially, I have been gradually losing confidence in my old convictions, as found them conflicting with those broad moral views of the oneness of humanity which the Gospel inculcates; and now your tract has broken the last tie that held me to my early opinions.

I am most happy to acknowledge myself as having become a “free trader” by the tuition of one of my earliest, best and truest friends.

Of course I think your statements clear, strong and convincing, and cheerfully commend them to the earnest attention of others.

Very cordially yours,

THOMAS S. HASTINGS.

LETTER FROM REV. CHARLES P. GROSVENOR.

WEST WOODSTOCK, CONN.,

April 26th, 1872.

F. H. HARRISON, Esq., *President of the International Free Trade Alliance:*

DEAR SIR:—Accept my thanks for the pamphlet, “Our Revenue System and The Civil Service.” I have read it with deep interest.

The theory of Free Trade is beautiful and also true. Like our Declaration of Independence, it commends itself to every unbiased thinker.

It is high time for these United States to adopt and carry out this theory. Only in this direction do I see light in re-

ference to our future as a nation. I rejoice, therefore, in the organization of the "*International Free Trade Alliance*," as the begining of a radical reform in our Government that will tend to promote its purity and its permanence.

By co-operation with other nations, like blessings may be secured for them.

I shall esteem it a privilege to help on in the enterprise in which you are engaged, by every means in my power

Yours truly,

CHAS. P. GROSVENOR.

LETTER FROM CHARLES A. GURLEY, ESQ.

PULASKI, N. Y., May 2d, 1872.

DEAR SIR:—The pamphlet so ably advocating *Free Trade*, received by the kindness of our mutual friend I have read with deep interest.

It is clear, logical, sound, and must commend itself, in all its main features, to every unprejudiced patriot throughout our common country. Its aim is simply even-handed justice to *all* in substitution for a system that works evil continually, protecting the few at the expense of the many.

All unjust statutes, whether State or National, legitimately weaken the respect for a government, originating the sowing seeds of *Communism, riot and disorder*.

So long as machinery for raising money out of the savings of the people can be both unseen and effective, so long will lavish and unnecessary appropriations be made, and no cure so effectual, I apprehend, can be found as to have the States collect each its share of taxes. This will strengthen the interest in, and watchfulness over the perpetuity of our government.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES A. GURLEY.

ABM. L. EARLE, ESQ., New York.



THE TARIFF SYSTEM AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

OF all the questions now pressing upon the attention of the country there is none of greater importance, none which more universally and vitally affects the immediate interests of the whole people, than that of taxation, and especially taxation by means of a Tariff.

Nor is there any question which has so frequently engaged the time and attention of Congress, and been so perverted from its original purpose; none which has been discussed with more acrimony and bitterness, and has produced more sectional animosity and strife than the Tariff Revenue System.

There has been no system of public policy sustained upon such contradictory theories; and none which in its insidious influences has resulted in greater injury to the manufacturing industries and the true welfare of the country than the Tariff "Protection" Policy.

There is nothing so full of danger to our liberties

and our cherished institutions as the continuation of a system of revenue, capable of being so perverted and abused. It has developed and centralized an enormous amount of patronage most corrupt in its character, entirely under the control of the central federal power and its partizans.

But at last the heavy burdens of taxation under which the people are staggering, and the deplorable official corruption so painfully apparent on every side, are arousing the honest and patriotic element of the country to demand reforms both in our Revenue System and the Civil Service. To accomplish results so desirable, the work must be earnestly, thoroughly and intelligently prosecuted, not by cutting off the branches merely, but by destroying the very roots of the system which has produced the evils from which the country is now suffering.

BY WHOM THE BURDEN IS BORNE.

No portion of the people have really so great an interest in taxation and in the pure administration of government as industrious working men and women.

Labor is the foundation on which prosperity is based, and like the lowest stratum in any superstructure, it must necessarily bear the heaviest weight. All taxes are a burden upon industry, and bear most heavily upon the working classes. They may be indirect and hidden so that the burden is not fully comprehended, but it is none the less real. The owners of dwellings and those who are engaged in business may

be able to transfer to others some portion of their taxes by charging higher rents for their houses and higher prices for their goods, but those who are obliged to use all their earnings to meet their expenses of living, can find no one on whom to transfer any portion which directly falls upon them, and yet must bear in addition that which is shifted on them by the landlords and traders.

No one questions the necessity for some system by which the government shall be furnished with all necessary revenue. But taxes necessarily increase the cost of living, and it is a sacred duty of Congress and of every other legislative body claiming to represent the interests of the people, to adopt the simplest, most equitable and least expensive method of obtaining revenue; and to avoid all legislation which needlessly increases the cost of living, or favors special interests, or which in any way interferes with industry or the natural laws of trade.

TARIFF TAXATION.

Tariff or Import Duties, although levied upon the productions of other countries, are none the less a tax which must be borne by our own people, either by paying higher prices for what we buy, or by obtaining lower prices for what we sell. This tax we cannot impose upon other countries, nor should we seek to do so. The support of our own government should appeal to our national pride, and a wholesome self-respect cause us to avoid any effort or desire to foist it upon others.

This import tax when levied upon articles which are not produced in this country is of comparatively limited range in its effect upon prices, while the entire amount paid by the importer goes directly into the government treasury. When, however, this tax is levied upon such articles as we do produce, and because they are produced in this country, the prices of all these articles, both domestic and foreign, are affected with this very important difference, that the increased prices of domestic goods entirely accrue to private interests, and not only afford no additional revenue to the government but actually diminish the amount it would otherwise receive. Thus when as at present, duties are levied upon every kind of goods manufactured in this country, they become a tax which increases the prices of every thing we wear; the cost of the tools with which we work; the rent of the houses in which we live, and even the very food that we eat. Herein lies the reason why the prices of all the necessaries of life have for years past been so enormously high, bearing with the greatest severity upon the working classes, who, notwithstanding the higher wages they receive, are obliged to pay so much more for everything they need, that they do not enjoy as many comforts as with the lower wages of ten years ago, before the tariff taxes were so enormously increased. In this way their earnings are gradually but surely diverted from them, constantly tending to make them still poorer while others are enriched.

HOW MUCH THE PEOPLE PAY.

If the manufacturing interests for whose special benefit these tariff taxes have been multiplied, were required through an *excise tax* to pay to the government the percentage now levied upon foreign goods, the government, instead of the manufacturer, would receive all the difference in prices which the people pay, and the amount added to the revenue would be sufficient to liquidate the entire National Debt within three years. This may be shown by taking the single item of pig-iron, which is characteristic of the entire list. The duty on the imported iron is seven dollars per ton in gold. Of the whole quantity used in this country but about one-fifth is imported, and on this the government receives revenue, while on the other four-fifths it receives none. The price of the entire quantity consumed, however, is increased by the tariff. Now, if the whole were imported, or if domestic iron paid an excise tax equal to the tariff tax, the government treasury would receive five times the amount now collected. And if the whole amount of revenue from imports were thus multiplied, which would not be an excessive average if applied to the entire list, a fair estimate can be formed of the amount which the people pay through this indirect system of taxation, without benefit to themselves or to the government.

The power to levy taxes, conferred upon Congress by the Constitution, was intended to provide revenue for the government, and for no other purpose. It is

interesting, nay surprising, to note the advanced views held by the convention which framed the Constitution. While leaving Congress to determine on the *method* by which to provide revenue, it seemed to have anticipated an early resort to direct taxes, and made provision in the Constitution for the apportionment of the amount among the States in proportion to population and representation. One of the members remarked in regard to the facility of this method, that "the sum allotted to each State may be levied without difficulty according to the plan used by the State in raising its own supplies."

PERVERSION OF CONGRESSIONAL POWERS.

In those days, however, there was a prevailing belief in other countries, and current to a considerable extent with our own people, that a tariff tax upon foreign commodities conferred great benefits upon the people by protecting their own manufacturing industries from foreign competition. Hence, in the preparation of the first tariff, it was not deemed inconsistent with the interest of the people that some discrimination should be made in regard to certain articles, such as cotton and woolen-goods and iron wares, thus to be afforded to capitalists an incidental encouragement to embark in manufacturing industries.

This was doubtless well intentioned, but under such a form of government as ours it involved a grave error, the magnitude of which was not realized because of the smallness of the rate, and consequently

attention was not drawn to the injurious principle on which the measure was based. It was not then seen that this was an exercise of the taxing power of Congress for the benefit of private interests, offering inducements for the investment of capital in manufacturing industries by raising an artificial barrier against foreign competition; that it was imposing a tax upon all engaged in other occupations, and who were unable or unwilling to become manufacturers. It was an adoption by the National Legislature of the *principle of special legislation*, which has since developed into such forms and proportions as to be the curse of the country. This insidious error stealthily advanced year by year in our earlier history until it gained sufficient influence and power in Congress to boldly avow and adopt PROTECTION as the policy of the government.

This policy has been persistently pursued until the original purpose of the tariff system has been completely overthrown, and instead of being a system "for revenue with incidental protection," it has become a system *for protection with incidental revenue*. Congress instead of legislating to increase the revenue of the government, now prostitutes the power delegated to it by the people to promote special interests.

AGGRANDISEMENT OF CAPITAL BY LAW.

It is this perversion and abuse of the taxing power by special legislation, aggrandizing capital, which has produced the present apparent antagonism between capital and labor; for there is no normal antagonism

between these elements of industry. No working-man finds any antagonism between his labor and the little capital he has managed to accumulate; on the contrary, he finds it a constant incentive and encouragement to him in his work. Antagonism and jealousy exist only because of the increased, unnatural, power given to the possessors of capital by laws enacted for their special benefit, without any proper consideration for the interests of the working-men—without affording them any adequate security against its abuse, and without increasing proportionately their power of self-defence.

LEGISLATION CONTROLLED BY CAPITAL.

The granting of enormous subsidies in lands to railroads, and the conferring of special privileges and immunities upon banking institutions, manufacturing corporations, and other forms of monopoly, have given them such unnatural and overwhelming power, as to control almost the whole legislation of the country, both State and Federal, and this power, if not promptly and firmly grappled with and overthrown, will soon overpower the people themselves.

DANGER OF COUNTER LEGISLATION.

The workingmen of this country, conscious of the burden pressing upon them with increasing severity, are rapidly comprehending that the difficulty arises from the aggrandisement of capital by legislative enactments. They are steadily organizing them-

selves for the purpose of demanding relief from this unnatural condition of things, but there is great danger that a remedy will be sought in the enactment of new laws, rather than in the abolition of those which have produced the injuries — which would be an attempt to correct existing evils by counter-irritants.

This course cannot be effective. It will only increase the enmity now existing between labor and capital, while there need be no real conflict of interest, and there would be none between them if left to themselves undisturbed by legislation. Labor can always defend itself against a selfish and improper use of capital, and need ask no favor so long as both are left equally free. Existing evils resulting from improper laws cannot be remedied by new laws to counteract those now in force, for it is equally wrong to legislate in the special interest of labor. The only way is to annul all laws which confer special advantages on either.

EXCHANGES SHOULD BE FREE.

Trade and Commerce—*i. e.*, exchanging the products of labor—are essential to the welfare of humanity. Production and exchanges are alike necessary to the prosperity and welfare of the individual and of the nation. Whether with men or with nations the same laws of trade are applicable, being limited by neither state nor national boundaries. In order to secure the largest benefits which labor and trade are capable of conferring, they should be alike libera

ted from legal obstacles, and be left as free as possible to seek its highest development.

A country like ours must necessarily have extensive and important business or exchanging relations with other countries. The benefits of these exchanges are not limited to the comparatively small number of persons directly engaged in exporting or importing products and commodities, but more or less affect the interests of the whole people.

A Revenue System should at least have the merit of stability. This is equally necessary to the government, which needs steadiness of revenue, and to the people, who need steadiness in commerce and industry, and find the ordinary and unavoidable fluctuations of trade quite enough to contend with. It is not possible that frequent, irregular and arbitrary congressional changes in the revenue laws can be otherwise than injurious, in unsettling and deranging the business relations of the country. Every sensible man understands this, and if, notwithstanding, the country seems prosperous, this prosperity is not to be attributed to any tariff laws, but rather to the indomitable industry and energy of the people overcoming, in part at least, the evils of such congressional legislation.

HOW FREQUENTLY CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE.

The Tariff System since its adoption, in 1789, has been discussed in Congress in almost every session, and has been altered or amended more than *forty* times, involving in every instance more or less

derangement of the business relations of the people. If these derangements were of benefit to the government there might be some shadow of justification for the action which produced them. But such legislation when enacted, as in most instances it has been, with intent to benefit special interests—to "protect" or "encourage" one kind of industry by taxing or obstructing others just as legitimate, just as necessary, just as much entitled to protection, and generally more profitable to the country—is in no wise to be justified, and is opposed to the broad and beneficent principles on which our government is founded.

Mr. E. B. Bigelow, himself a Protectionist, in his work on the tariff enumerates eighteen changes previous to 1832, viz.: in 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1794, 1795, 1797, 1800, 1804, 1805, 1812, 1813, 1816, 1818, 1819, 1824, 1828, 1830, 1832. And there have been more than twenty successive changes at irregular intervals between 1832 and 1871.

PROTECTIONISTS NEVER SATISFIED.

The changes between 1861 and 1870 have been more sweeping and more frequent than within any similar period in our history. During this period the protectionists have been entirely in the ascendant, and have without difficulty passed every measure they desired. But they have never succeeded in satisfying even themselves. Now that they no longer have such unlimited power, they are with cool effrontery appealing to the people for co-operation to

"secure stability of legislation on all questions of Tariff, Commerce and Finance!"

When so many alterations have been made in our tariff laws, averaging more than one every two years, it could not be otherwise than that the discussions relating to the subject would be increased in importance at nearly every session of Congress. With the inevitable derangement of business relations, and the clashing of the various interests of different sections of the country, these discussions have constantly increased in acrimony and bitterness, and have produced more sectional animosity and strife than that attending any other, not excepting slavery.

GRAVE QUESTIONS AS TO CONSEQUENCES.

The controversies arising from legislation on the tariff question previous to 1832, developed in that year all the elements of civil war, lacking only the strength and preparation attained in 1861, to have made it proportionately disastrous with that sad and bloody contest. Indeed it is a question whether but for the sectional strife growing out of the tariff legislation prior to 1832, there would have been a rebellion in 1861? Whether the supposed value of slave labor and its necessity to the South, did not steadily increase with the increase of protective legislation? Whether the perversion of our revenue system, in order to protect and aid manufacturing industries mainly carried on at the North, and in which the South did not desire to engage, did not more

contribute to preserve slavery, and lead to the belief of its necessity to the people of the South than any other cause? The change in the views of the South regarding slavery, has been attributed by many to the influence of the Cotton Gin; yet, as this valuable machine was invented in 1793, and in use nearly forty years before the advent of the nullification troubles of 1832, is it not preposterous, nay, wicked, to charge upon an invention capable of so great benefit to humanity, that its direct result was to intensify and perpetuate human slavery?

PROTECTION A USURPATION OF POWER.

Protection to manufacturers is only another name for special legislation. Manufacturing is only one form of business, nothing more. It is just as much a private business interest as farming or trading, or any other form of employment. Using the power of Congress to promote either of these interests by creating obstructions in the way of others is simply a usurpation of power, which if persevered in, may produce another civil war as disastrous as that from which we have so recently emerged.

HOW IT IS SUSTAINED.

The policy of protection is sustained by its advocates on widely different grounds, and for reasons both conflicting and inconsistent. Indeed, the whole system is founded upon contradictions and antagonisms, impossible to harmonize. It is inimical to the

principles of our government, and contains within itself the elements of its own destruction. Many persons honestly support it because of the supposed benefits to the general industry of the country, while the persistent efforts of interested, if not selfish parties, for years past, have involved the question in so much confusion as to prevent many from seeing that it is entirely inconsistent with the sound principles which men adopt in their common business affairs.

CONTRADICTIONS.

In the political conflicts growing out of it in the various sections of the country, both advocates and opponents of protection have been influenced by reasons and motives contradictory in principle. Protectionists so called on the one side were clamorous for complete freedom for themselves, but persistent in their efforts to shackle trade. Free Traders as they were called, on the other side, were equally strenuous in their demands for freedom in trade, while at the same time refusing to remove the bonds from labor. This destructive antagonism of principles has already produced disaster on the one side. It is only a question of time to ensure a similar result on the other, unless averted by timely abandonment of the whole pernicious and unnatural system.

MOTIVES FOR CONTINUING IT.

The Protective policy is advocated by a comparatively inconsiderable number of persons possessed of

large wealth, whose whole capital and all their material interests are identified with some kind of business which it is supposed derives its profits from the protective system. These have no patience with men who differ with them, and are not willing to be taxed for their supposed benefit. Having been for so long a time "encouraged" and supported by an assessment upon the industry of others, its continuance is insisted upon by the protected interests as a right. They are very fluent in declaiming about "the pauper labor of Europe," forgetting that as paupers are those who are supported at public expense by a tax upon the industry of others, this epithet may with more truthfulness be applied to themselves than to the producers of Europe.

Some defend the system from national prejudices, supposing that it can be used as a retaliatory measure towards rival countries, inflicting injuries on them, while we receive some indefinable benefit from it. It is forgotten that such measures are unworthy of a nation calling itself Christian, and through higher than human laws, must result in greater injury to those who adopt them.

Some advocate the system entirely from selfish motives, seeking to derive benefit to themselves, by imposing disadvantages upon others. It might be well for such to remember that selfishness is a mean and degrading element, one which men are instinctively reluctant to have applied to themselves, and which certainly is no less offensive and despicable as the characteristic of a nation than when found in the individual.

There are many, however, who believe that protection is necessary to the welfare of the industrious working masses of the people. Such are doubtless honest in this conviction, very intelligent on other practical subjects, but have evidently given this most important question no careful consideration. To all such it seems intricate and confusing, and they prefer to remain ignorant of its effects rather than take a little trouble to analyze it. Complaining as they do about taxes and corruption, they yet allow selfish and interested parties to control legislation, and thus continue the present evils which oppress the community.

PROTECTION POSES NOT PROTECT LABOR.

Protective legislation always has for intent to confer advantages upon capital, but neglects the interests of labor. In order to divert capital from other uses, it attempts to make it more remunerative in certain industries than in others, and is thus used professedly as a means of protecting our national industry against foreign competition. This compels the people to pay a higher price for goods, to aid certain manufacturers, and imposes a penalty on those who prefer foreign fabrics. By this policy, the people, deprived of a natural right, are obliged to pay more for clothing, tools, and other necessities of life without being secured any increased means wherewith to pay for them. Congress has no right to require from any one a surrender of property without an equivalent, even for government purposes, yet it confers the

power to do this upon certain manufacturers by means of the tariff. It may be that higher prices are not invariably the result, but such is nevertheless the *intention* and purpose of those who secure such legislation. It is intended to secure to certain manufacturers some advantage in the prices of the goods they produce, but does not secure or seek to secure any corresponding advantage to their workman and employés. There is not only no protection to them against the free importation of competing labor, but this is purposely left open that the manufacturers may also be protected against any demands from their workmen and employés for increased wages. Indeed, protection is demanded *expressly because wages are already so high!* It is not to furnish employment to those who are without it, but to indemnify the employers for the high rates which labor commands. These tariff assessments rest upon the whole people, including the very class who do the work of producing the protected articles.

CHANGE OF BASE.

Having succeeded in obtaining protection on the plea of high wages, having long received the supposed benefit of it, when the people think this fostering should be discontinued, an appeal is next made to the sympathies and fears of the people on the plea that if protection ceases, the workmen will be thrown out of employment, or else be obliged to work at the pauper rates prevailing in Europe.

Efforts are persistently made to produce the impres-

sion that not only the prosperity of all the working-classes, but even that of the whole country is dependent upon this protection to manufacturing industries, while the fact remains that those industries which claim to need it, are supported like paupers by a tax upon the self-sustaining industries of the country ; hence the whole country would be far more prosperous without them, if, unaided, they cannot sustain themselves.

STRIKES AND PROTECTION LAWS THE SAME.

The laws protecting manufacturers have produced the organization of Trades Unions, and the numerous Strikes which have so greatly injured labor and industry. It is through combinations of manufacturers that Congress has enacted laws whereby working-men and all others are prevented buying goods where and from whom they please, except at artificially enhanced prices. Acting in self-defense, the working-men combine under laws of their own making to prevent the manufacturers from employing whom they please, except on such terms and conditions as these trades unions may prescribe. Trades unions and strikes among workingmen are identical in principle with protection to manufacturers. Both attempt to secure selfish ends by compulsory means ; one seeking to obtain higher prices for their goods ; the other to secure higher prices for their labor. Both seek to accomplish their purpose by obstructing the natural laws of trade and by violating the sacred rights of individuals.

PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.

Frequent reference is made to the attempt of England during perhaps two hundred years, to build up by protection a vast system of manufactures which it is said has secured to her her present enormous accumulation of capital. We are told that when we shall have attained a similar condition, we too, like England, will be able to abandon the protective system. It is taken for granted by many, as a matter of course, that the results attained by England are attributable to the protective policy. But others are ready to dispute this. If, however, we admit that England has acquired her wealth and manufacturing pre-eminence through such a system, the question naturally arises as to which portion of her people received the benefits, the working classes, or the manufacturing capitalist? Why was it that, under a system which is claimed to be especially favorable to workingmen, the British Iron Masters and other proprietors became enormously wealthy, while the working classes were crushed and ground to the deepest degradation and poverty? Why was it that the working classes in Great Britain were so nearly starved under the protective system, that in sheer desperation they demanded and secured its repeal? And why is it that *since the repeal*, these same classes have so developed in material and intellectual and political strength, that they now influence the policy of government in matters where once they were almost entirely ignored?

PROTECTION DEFEATED BY SELF-INTEREST.

Protection so called is contrary to the laws of trade universally adopted in the management of individual affairs. Obstacles and hindrances in the way of any lawful business, are if possible removed, not interposed. When these obstacles are in the form of a statute law, efforts are made to evade its application to themselves, even by those who may have advocated its adoption. The number of men throughout the country directly interested in any one article protected is very small, while all the rest are interested in exactly the opposite direction. This is the fact in regard to each article on the list. And so almost the entire mass of the people, instinctively and persistently—perhaps unconsciously—are using every effort to neutralize the effect of protection upon every article and interest with which they are not specially identified. Here is a power, silent, but perfectly irresistible, even by law, which renders it practically impossible to secure the intended benefit of protection for any length of time, necessitating frequent alterations and additional safeguards which only serve to increase the difficulties and disarrangements which affect trade. Every business transaction is thus made more difficult and more expensive without any corresponding benefit to the great mass of the people.

DILEMMA PRESENTED BY PROTECTIONISTS.

Interested advocates of a high protective policy together with many who are deluded by their so

phistries, insist upon its continuance for two very different and irreconcilable reasons.

On the one hand, an appeal is made directly to our integrity and patriotism on the ground that the nation, owing a very large debt, must have a high tariff to ensure the necessary revenue. On the other hand, our national sympathies and pride are invoked in behalf of home manufactures in order that we may not be dependent upon Europe for such fabrics as can be made here, alleging that this cannot be successfully done except under a high protective tariff.

Now here is a dilemma forced upon every one of us by these unselfish and patriotic protectionists, in which it is impossible to hold both horns at the same time. If we choose the one by which government is strengthened with revenue, then in supplying our wants we must give preference to imported fabrics, it being from these revenue is obtained. If we take the other and endeavor to encourage domestic manufactures in buying home-made goods, we may succeed in helping the manufacturers, but we thereby deprive the government of the revenue which it needs and ought to receive. The truth is, there is a direct antagonism between the interests of the government and those of the protected manufacturers. The latter nevertheless claim to be the especial friends and supporters of the government, while in reality the importers and consumers of foreign goods are its best and most reliable supporters. Those, who like some of our highest government officials, advocate the so-called American System, and boast of their higher

Americanism in using goods of domestic manufacture, really use their means and influence to promote some private interest, and to deprive the government of its needed revenue.

PROTECTION INJURES MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

The policy of protection not only tends to diminish the resources of government, but also to weaken and injure and destroy the very industries which it proposes to aid, since it undermines and destroys the *element of self-reliance* which is absolutely essential to real success in every enterprise. This is at once recognized when applied to individuals, where there is no difficulty in predicting which of any given number will be successful, those who are generously assisted by friends or those who are obliged to rely upon their own efforts. The result can be still more confidently predicted of those who are assisted by government, where no acknowledgment is required, and no return is to be made. Such assistance can only enervate and injure, hindering as it does the proper development of the spirit of self-help.

The effect of this universal principle certainly cannot be any less enervating and injurious in its results when applied to companies of men engaged in manufacturing ; and the insidious but inevitable effects of the protective policy upon those industries which have always enjoyed it, are perfectly manifest in their present condition. So far from being independent and self-supporting, as they would have been if left to their own resources they are now

more dependent upon this artificial support than ever before. And we are justified in the confident prediction that they *never* will become self-sustaining until left to rely upon themselves rather than on legislative assistance. To confirm this view we need but compare the present with the past. In our infancy as a nation, eighty years ago, in order to encourage these industries a duty of *five per cent.* was imposed upon cotton and woolen goods, and *seven and one-half per cent.* upon iron wares. At present *not less than ten times* this amount of security is demanded as being necessary to the very existence of these industries. More than one hundred years ago we made and exported pig iron to England, and that country thought herself compelled to protect her iron interests by forbidding its importation from the colonies. Even when our first tariff was adopted, it was not deemed necessary to include pig iron in the list. Since then (in 1815) the Protectionists attempted to make this article more profitable to its producers by a tariff tax, but this has so weakened this important and once self-sustaining trade, or has so stimulated a principle of avarice as to lead those engaged in it to claim that it cannot exist except by a subsidy of seven dollars per ton in gold, levied upon those who consume iron. So much for interests which are fostered and propped up by protection. On the other hand, in manufactures, such as sewing machines, watches, agricultural implements, and many other things peculiarly American, which require the highest degree of skill in the application of tools specially adapt-

ed to the work, and in regard to which for special reasons protection cannot operate effectively, we are taking the lead of the world, and have no fear of competition from any quarter. This success, however, is attributed by our leading protectionist organ, in a particular reference to watch-making, not to skill in manufacturing but to skillful and judicious *advertising!*

INJURIOUS EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURE.

While a long series of Congressional obstructions and hindrances has increased the price of all manufactured goods, the effect upon our staple agricultural productions has been in the contrary direction. The selfish legislation which has enhanced the cost of all we make, has compelled manufacturers in other countries to exercise more skill and greater economy—to develop the self-reliant element—and thus they are still able to send their wares here, besides completely shutting us out from the markets which we once almost controlled. Our agricultural products are increasing much more rapidly than a home market can possibly be made for them by any system of legislation. A market for the surplus has thus become not only essential, but it is quite as important that those who desire this surplus shall be in a thriving condition, and thus enabled to pay us fair prices for it. The prices obtained abroad for our surplus products materially affect the value of our whole production, and thus the English market regulates our prices at home. Everywhere throughout the country,

where the farmer sells his grain, the buyer is governed by the New York quotations, and these in turn by those of London. Thus the effect of our protective policy is to increase the cost of goods made here, and to diminish the cost of making goods in the country where we sell our surplus. It increases the cost of what we buy, and reduces the price of what we sell. We deprecate the low rates of wages and consequent poverty among the working classes in Europe, yet pursue a policy which depresses their condition still more, and lessens their ability to buy and consume what we are compelled to sell there.

ASSUMED BENEFITS OF PROTECTION.

Exultant protectionists sometimes point to places in this country which have been entirely built up by manufactures, as an evidence of the wealth and prosperity produced by those industries. They are careful, however, never to mention the fact that they are not self-sustaining; but that by taxing the whole people through the tariff system, this wealth is drawn there from other places and concentrated in these fewer hands, and that hard-working people far away who cannot derive any possible benefit from this transfer and concentration of wealth, are obliged through this vaunted American System to pay higher prices for what they buy, to enrich the places where these manufactures flourish.

If these forced contributions were only levied on those who derive benefits and profits from these manufacturing establishments; from those whose proper-

ty is increased in value, and who receive the benefits of this home market—if these alone were compelled to bear the whole expense of the system, there would soon be a change in their estimate of the value of protection to domestic industries in order to create home markets. They would soon adopt the very inelegant, but forcible language used by the foremost newspaper advocate of protection in this country, in reply to the poor freedmen of the South who asked the government to aid (protect?) them a little longer, “Root, Hog or Die!”

CENTRALIZED POWER IN THE REVENUE SYSTEM.

The Tariff System has been so thoroughly perverted from its original purpose that it now mainly promotes private interests positively antagonistic to those of the government, and its administration has become fearfully corrupt. By means of it the federal patronage has grown to enormous and dangerous proportions, and it will continue to grow as the country grows, while the system is continued. When to this is added that other most formidable power, our Internal Revenue System, equally corrupt with the Tariff, the patronage in the control of the government becomes an almost overpowering means of acquiring and retaining political power by corrupt and unscrupulous men. These systems require the services of many thousand men and an expenditure of many millions of dollars. Besides the “ins” who hold offices there is a still greater number of “outs” who want their places, and the most unscrupulous means are used to

nold or to obtain official position. The men who live by politics are incessantly engaged in manœuvring the political parties to which they respectively belong. These "ins" and "outs" between them, control all the nominations for office as well as all the elections. It matters not which party is in the ascendant, this is the class of men who secure party success, and must therefore be rewarded in the distribution of the federal patronage. To control and dispense this patronage is, more than anything else, that for which parties contend. The existence of such a gigantic, overshadowing, centralized power, was never contemplated by the founders of our government, and no party ought to be entrusted with it. It is the most dangerous element with which the people have to contend, and their energies cannot too earnestly or too promptly be directed to its overthrow. Any proposed reform in our national affairs, which does not seek to remove entirely this vast element of corruption, cannot be successful.

WHY THE TARIFF SYSTEM WAS CHOSEN.

In the crude and unsettled condition of public affairs, when Congress first acted on the question of revenue, under the power conferred by the Constitution, instead of adopting the method of direct taxation by apportionment among the States therein provided for, the system of Import Duties was unfortunately determined on. This may have arisen from the well-known jealousy on the part of the States, lest too

much power should be exercised by the general government. Yet doubts seem to have existed whether a Tariff System would work satisfactorily, since the first tariff was limited to a period of seven years duration. It was made a definite policy for this specified time, probably to create a basis of national credit to facilitate the negotiation of the loans needed by the Treasury, as European countries then had more confidence in such methods of revenue than in any other.

If the system of direct taxation by apportionment among the States had then been adopted, the collections would have been made through the ordinary agencies of the several States, each in its own way. The corrupt Custom House machinery would not have been developed. Congress would have been kept from sectional legislation, and the country would no doubt have been spared the sad sectional strife which has lately destroyed so much useful wealth and so many valuable lives.

OBJECTIONS TO APPORTIONMENT ANSWERED.

There are not wanting, those who contend that the States, under an apportionment system will not respond to their allotted quota, some of them having once, before the Constitution was adopted, refused to do so. But who can believe that the people who have so recently and thoroughly proved their faithfulness by submitting to every form of taxation almost at the same time, will ever again permit their respective

States to refuse their just quota to the national expenditures? Looking at the enormous burdens of taxation quadrupled through the tariff, and the deplorable official corruption created by that system, who can doubt that the people would now prefer to go back to where our fathers once stood and make a new and sounder beginning in our Revenue System?

If, when our revenue system was first adopted it could have been foreseen what incalculable evils would grow out of the tariff—from the perversion of its purpose and the abuse of its power, from the sectional strife, the official corruption, and the dangerous federal patronage it created—who can doubt that in those days of at least comparative purity, Congress would have overwhelmingly adopted a system of direct taxation as the national policy?

Had it been foreseen that the effect of encouraging manufactures through the tariff taxation would only enervate the men engaged in them, and make them increasingly dependent—that after eighty years of artificial fostering, these industries would require ten times additional stimulus to keep them alive; who can doubt that these industries would have been left, as individuals are left, to their own self-reliant energy and to their individual self-interest, *which is the ONLY TRULY AMERICAN SYSTEM, the only true method of developing manufacturing or any other form of industry?*

THE AMERICAN FREE TRADE LEAGUE.

This organization has been engaged, for several

years past, in a determined conflict with the powers which have so long controlled Congressional legislation in the interest of favored classes, and has earnestly directed the attention of the public to the evils of the tariff protection policy, and the imperative need of revenue reform. In this there can be no conflict, no want of harmony between us. We are as thoroughly opposed to the policy called protection, as our friends of that organization can possibly be. We, however, do not think that the LEAGUE, in confining itself as it does, to advocating an *anti-protective* revenue tariff, strikes at the root of the tree which is capable of bearing such fruit as our tariff system has produced, and which certainly cannot be remedied by only cutting off some of the branches.

Besides, the system of unrestricted freedom in trade and commerce, is the natural and right condition, and the *only* system in harmony with the principles of our government. Barriers are the work of governments and should never be interposed except from absolute necessity—never with the purpose to benefit ourselves by placing others at a disadvantage. Individuals and corporations too often resort to such measures, but this should be considered unworthy of a great government. Even if a tariff could be framed that would secure sufficient revenue from articles which we do not produce, the rate must not only be very high but the temptation to fraud and adulteration in quality of goods would be greatly increased. This, for several years, has been carried on to such an extent in the article of coffee, by some counted one

of the necessities of life, that it has been almost impossible to obtain it pure, and the same experience is now threatened in regard to tea. If adulteration should not always result, still the price must be so much enhanced as to diminish the consumption, and thus injure our exchanging relations with the countries producing these articles. We may add to this, that any such business will necessarily require so much more capital to conduct it, that it becomes practically a monopoly controlled by a few men.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

A thoroughly ANTI-PROTECTIVE policy from the first, thoroughly persevered in, might have prevented much of the legislative favoritism, much of the vast federal patronage and the corruption with which the country is cursed ; but so many phases of special legislation have been developed and endorsed by the usages under the tariff system, that no effective remedy can now be secured, except by entirely abolishing our present method, and adopting one which will be uniform and permanent. Besides, a tariff purely anti-protective will not produce sufficient revenue for an economical administration of government, so that some internal revenue system must also be necessary. This will require the continuance of all the machinery now in use, with most of its attendant corruption, extravagance, and other evils ; and these means of securing a centralising power every political party will seek to perpetuate.

WILL THE PEOPLE OPPOSE DIRECT TAXATION?

Many insist that the people at large are opposed to direct taxation, and even prefer to pay a much larger amount indirectly. This is simply equivalent to asserting that the people, at heart, are unfaithful to our institutions, and must be *cheated* into supporting them, or else they are so stupid that, like children, they must be hoodwinked into it. This cannot be true of the people. It is only the pretence of those who misrepresent them and desire that a corrupt and extravagant system of legislation be continued, for their own selfish ends. Taxation has, indeed, become odious to the people, and may yet drive them to repudiation; but it has been made odious by the multitude of indirect methods resorted to in order to filch an excessive amount to be used for nefarious and corrupt purposes. The people will readily pay for supporting a purely administered government, when confined to its legitimate sphere, and so long as those who are entrusted with power are faithful to their trust and loyal to the people, whose servants only they are. The people will meet promptly and honestly all proper obligations, if those who exercise legislative powers will deal honestly with them. But they may be educated to dishonesty and repudiation by the continuation, and that only for a few years longer, of the excessive and indirect and multitudinous forms of taxation now in operation.

Some will be ready to urge, in order to avoid any

change, that the basis of taxation, through State apportionment, according to representation and population, is unequal and unfair; that some States may thus be required to pay too large a proportion, which they will not submit to. It must be remembered that the principles of our national government are not based upon property but *upon men*, and its functions should be exercised alike in the interest of all. From this view of the question, after a most thorough discussion of it, the framers of the Constitution unanimously decided in favor of the principle of direct taxation in proportion to population and representation, as being equitable and just. Property representation, in other relations, may be right, but not so in the general government, in which every man has a right to an equal interest and voice. Besides, if the apportionment system is any better than the present system, if it materially reduces taxes, as it must, the change will be for the nation a great stride in the right direction, while the question of local taxation will be open all the more readily to any modification or improvement which experience can suggest.

The radical change which we propose may find objectors, from an undue apprehension of disasters resulting from an immediate or sudden remodeling of our system, but it cannot be sudden or immediate, inasmuch as there is time required to educate the people, and then to secure action through Congress, and this will afford ample notice to all the interests to be affected.

THE PEOPLE DEMAND REFORM.

The oppressive burdens of taxation and the wide spread of official corruption are arousing the people to demand reform in both the Revenue System and the Civil Service. But how is it possible to secure these reforms so absolutely necessary, while the present systems are continued in operation? The tariff has never been exempt from the tampering officiousness of Congress, and never will be so long as special legislation can be purchased. The Civil Service can never be reformed while there are so many offices to be filled, and so many ready to use corrupt means to obtain these offices, with full purpose to make them remunerative, no matter at what expense they may have been secured. All the interests of corrupt office-holders, and all the ambition of office-seekers in Congress and elsewhere, are thus directly arrayed against these reforms, which can only be accomplished by the people making a bold, determined, uncompromising effort to secure a thorough change in our whole revenue system. In this way only can thousands of offices be abolished, millions of dollars now spent in salaries be saved, and a very large proportion of the corrupt and dangerous element now overshadowing the country be destroyed.

WHO WILL OPPOSE REFORM.

The honest and patriotic men of the country demand these reforms,—men who are not ambitious

for office, and who prefer the welfare of the country above party success. There is a majority of such in each of the existing parties, but their power is entirely annulled by the skill of the leaders. A movement in the right direction is sure to draw this element to its support. Protectionists, who wish to thrive by a tax on other interests; ambitious men who are ready to use almost any means which will secure to themselves official prominence; office-holders and office-seekers who wish to live and fatten on corruption, cannot be expected to show any favor to such a movement. They will probably attack it covertly and openly in every way to prevent its success. But all who really desire a reduction of taxes and other public burdens; all who desire an economical and honestly administered government; all who desire reform in our civil service; all who are true friends to domestic manufactures, developed and sustained through self-reliant energy, are sure to give their earnest support to such a movement.

ORIGINAL FREE TRADERS.

There are many persons scattered through the country, who have *always* held that "Free Trade and Direct Taxation," is the true national policy for our government, believing it not only far more economical and far less corrupting than any tariff system, but also more in harmony with the principles on which our government is founded. These especially can be relied on for united aid and support. Never

before has there been such a combination of circumstances calling for the promulgation of true and sound principles with so promising a prospect of hearty response from the people, and such hopeful assurances of success.

There are many thousands of the people who believe in the universal brotherhood of man; who profess to believe in the doctrine of dealing with others as they themselves would be dealt with; who acknowledge the obligation to "preach the gospel to every creature" by sending abroad the missionary of the Cross; who believe in a time coming when righteousness and peace shall prevail in all the earth. It is certain that the breaking away of all selfish barriers between the nations, must precede the incoming of that day. Then surely the appeal which we make to the *Christian* men of the land, for coöperation in harmony with their faith, will not be unheeded?

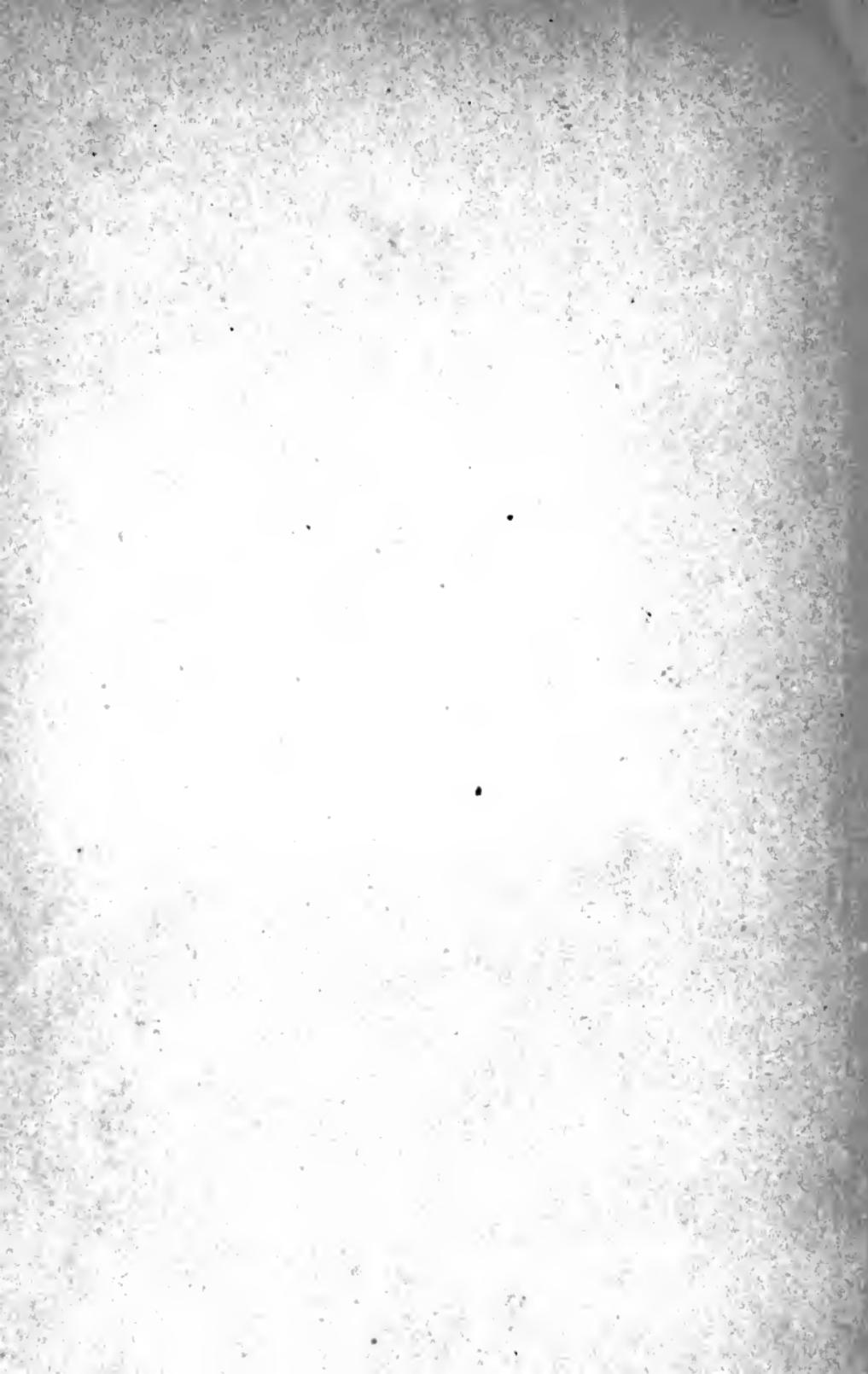
THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE ALLIANCE has been organized to inaugurate this work of reform.

As complete freedom of commerce will result from our success, it is an object in which other countries have a corresponding interest with ourselves. Efforts will therefore be directed towards securing corresponding action in other lands, hoping thus to hasten the removing of all commercial barriers.

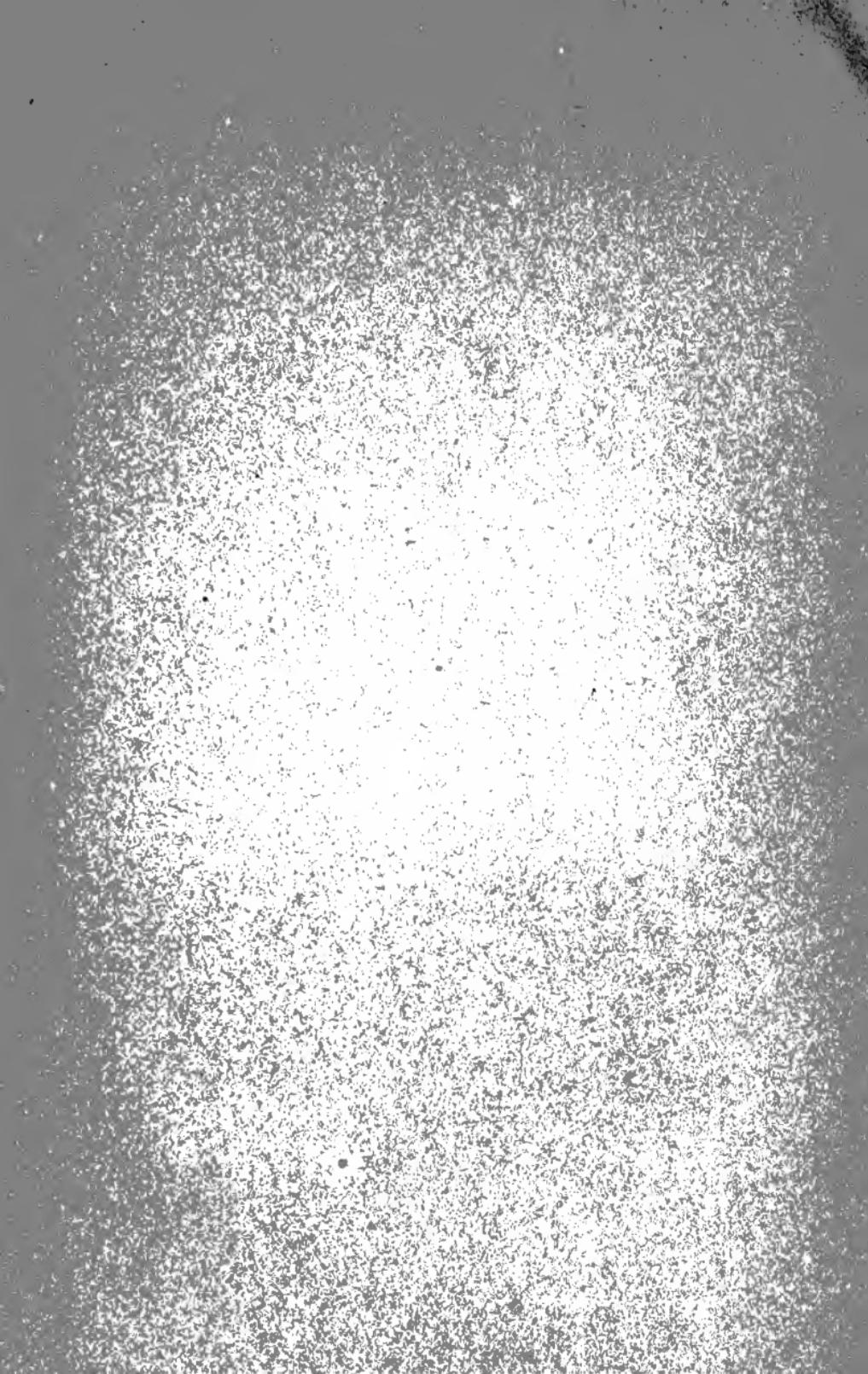
It is, however, a work in which America should by all means take the lead. We have been held up

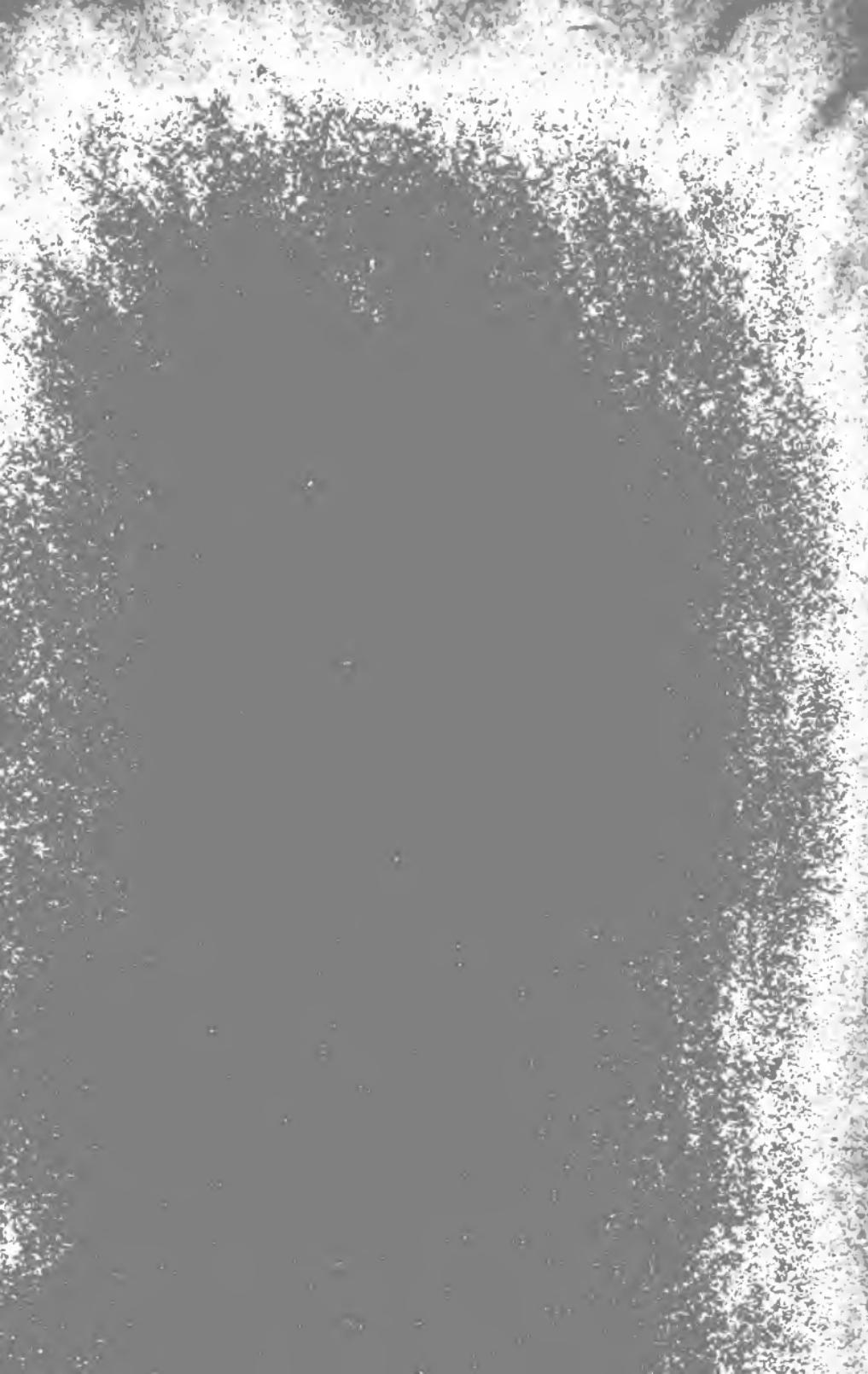
as an example to the world in every struggle for freedom. Claiming to have secured freedom of soil, freedom of speech, freedom of labor, freedom of men ; to be completely consistent with our principles, we must secure like freedom in exchanging the products of labor, which is the necessary complement of the others. Let us, so far as we are able, emancipate trade and commerce from every shackle, and throw down the gauntlet of unfettered competition to all the world.

The present is a peculiarly appropriate time for inaugurating such a movement. Nations are being drawn closer together. Steam and electricity are almost annihilating space and time. Other barriers are rapidly disappearing. The signs of the times all point in this direction. The triumph of peace in the recent treaty between England and America fore-shadows the extinction of national jealousies. What nobler object can be presented to those who wish to promote the highest welfare of the country and of the world ? This work will be accomplished sooner or later, and some one country must begin it. Nothing can be more worthy the fame of America and her position among the nations, than to take the lead in a movement, which more than any other, will promote peace and good-will among the nations of the world.









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